A Trip to Tanzania

Tanzania is located in the Eastern part of Africa on the coast of the Indian Ocean. Its neighboring countries are: on the north Uganda and Kenya, on the west Burundi, Rwanda, and Congo, and on the south, Mozambique, Zambia, and Malawi. While each ethnic group speaks its own local language, almost all Tanzanians are also fluent in the national language Swahili or Kiswahili. The second official language is English since Tanzania was part of the British Colony.

The Kilimanjaro Mountain, which is the highest peak in Africa and the magnificent wild animals like lions, elephants, rhinoceros, giraffes, leopards, and cheetahs, draw millions of tourists to the country annually. This year through the sponsorship of Outdoors Education and Leadership Program Five Bucknell Students; Laney Hagsssen, Tommy Schnll, Kevin Curran, Kevin Thomas and Peter Rogerson; and two staff members; Poppy Goforth, Director of Outdoor Education & Leadership and Jim Hostetler, Director of Constriction & Design; had the chance to visit Tanzania and climb the Mountain Kilimandjaro.

The trip was open to all students of Bucknell University and it was advertised through the outing club, a BSG recognized organization. It was planned in order for students to live an adventure, do some sightseeing and experience service and learning. The students participants talked about climate changes, the geology of the Mt Kilimandjaro and of the National Park system and compared it with the U.S.

The trip took sixteen days including travel from and to Bucknell. During most of the trip, the participants were camping and stayed in spring land hotel, which was arranged through Zara Guide Company.

The Bucknell team took a 7-day climb via the Machame route to get to the top of the Mt Kilimandjaro. They climbed for 5 and ½ days stopping at different camps along the way. The route they took was neither the easiest nor the shortest.
“The hardest night of all was the 3rd night when we got up to 15,000 feet. It was harder to breathe because of the altitude and therefore we had to go back down to the nearest camp to recuperate and get started again.”
–Poppy Goforth.

“The most interesting and most difficult part of the trip was actually summiting the mountain. The climb was steep, and the air was thin, but after reaching the peak, I was overcome with the greatest sense of accomplishment.”
–Kevin Thomas.

On January 10th at mid night, the team started their climb to the highest peak, Uhuru, and got there at 7:30 am.

“The view was extraordinary. Because we were standing at the highest peak, we were above the clouds. It was like looking at a sea of aches when looking down the crater.”
–Poppy Goforth.

It took them 5-½ days to climb up (19341 feet) and 1-½ days to climb down the Kilimanjaro Mountain making it a total of 7 days. After the climb the Bucknell team did a 5-day safari. The last part of the trip the Bucknell team volunteered in an orphanage in Mushi. Bucknellians helped the children with their schoolwork, played with them and assisted the children with doing their laundry (hand wash).

“The kids were so affectionate, welcoming and happy that we were there. That is when I realized that just because they were poor doesn’t mean they were unhappy” – Poppy Goforth.

Students should definitely be on the look out for similar opportunities for next year’s winter break since it is once in a lifetime opportunity.
Profile on Grant Hoover

By Malyse Uwase’13

This month the Bison Spectrum has decided to highlight Grant Hoover who is the Assistant Director of Diverse communities/ Residential Education and Fraternity and Sorority Affairs.

I had the privilege to sit with Grant a fun, energetic person who is passionate about the work he does and ask him a couple questions.

Background and work at Bucknell

Grant is from Southern California and he went to the University of Southern California where he majored in Business with a minor in Psychology. While he was in college, he was an RA in his school’s International house (understand here a dorm that can be compared to our own McDonnell Hall). He appreciated working as an RA and was able to meet people from different countries and learn about other cultures. He obtained his master’s degree in the University of Vermont.

Before coming to Bucknell he worked for the program A semester at Sea where he focused on leadership. While working for this program and traveling all over the world, the city he liked the most was Beijing, that he described as being “Cold but Awesome”.

Presently at Bucknell he oversees RA’s in Smith and Vedder Hall as well as small houses such as Leiser International House and Seventh Street house. On top of that he helps with the creation and support of programs that educate about diversity. There are two projects, that he enjoyed working on for this school year. The first one was Recylemania, a recycling completion for dorms that was a lot of fun and helpful. The dorm that managed to recycle the most winning the competition, saw its residents obtain free tickets for the Spring concert and Chrysalis. Taylor house, a dorm concerned with sustainable development was the winner of this wonderful program. The second project focuses on the small houses that from now on will have a theme, and residents can apply to them depending on what they like. Themes include a Theater house and a house that would have half of its residents conservative and the other half liberal. The aim of the program is for all the small houses to host events organized by their residents in relation to the theme of the house.

Fun Facts:

Grant’s favorite book is To Kill a Mockingbird, that he first read in 8th grade. When he graduated from high school, his English professor offered it to him saying that he should read it over and over again, and that every time he will read it will have more meaning. He has found this statement to be true and believes that this book teaches how to treat people well.

Two of his favorite hobbies are baking and traveling, in fact his new year’s resolution is to visit three new cities. In addition Grant also collects postcards. He started the collection by sending postcards to his friends and family while working for a Semester at Sea, and each time he would send one postcard to himself as well. When he came back and read them it was like a journal about his long travel.

If he had to live in one particular time in history, he would go back in the 1970’s in San Francisco. It is during that time that Harvey Milk, a gay rights activist who changed a lot of things for the gay community was doing most of his activism.

If granted the opportunity to change three things in this world, he would make sure that no one would wear crocs anymore, he would get rid of war and make sure that everybody is surrounded by love and feels loved.

From Cultural Center Staff....

Please keep the Vedder Cultural Lounge in mind for a unique place to hold your weekly office staff meetings, club meetings, or just a quiet place to study.

In order to reserve the space, you may contact the Event Management Office to schedule your meeting or luncheon. You can also reserve it by logging in to mybucknell, click on Schedule an Event and fill out the form. If the space is available, we'd love to have you join the many organizations that have already made use of our wonderful lounge.
Pictures of the Chinese New Year Celebration